

Meeting Minutes

Amherst Recycling and Refuse Management Committee

DATE: Thursday, November 7, 2013

MEETING TIME: 4:30 pm

LOCATION: DPW Meeting Room

ATTENDING

Committee Members – John Root, Craig Goff, Cristina Cox Fenandes, Sue Morrello, Arnie Alper, Brenda Davies,

Visitors – Caroline Lederman (Amherst resident), Christine Archambault (South Hadley resident)

Susan Waite, Amherst Recycling Coordinator

LIST OF TOPICS:

1. **Approve 10/13 minutes.** Unanimous approval of minutes.
2. **Create meeting effectiveness action plan.** John asked committee members to share their thoughts about last month's meeting effectiveness survey (via Survey Monkey). Suggestions included: have speakers recognized by the chair, no interruptions, assigned time keeper, longer meetings, fewer agenda items, a formal process to better manage participation (talking stick, "next talker" designation, equal turns to speak/comment, clear introductions to each agenda topic), and minutes with just enough detail to know who has agreed to perform which tasks and what was decided and discussed. Need a speedy process for review of minutes is desired, but discussion of minutes between members outside of a meeting is a violation of open meeting law. **Motion (Cristina C.) – Clear introduction of the topic for no more than 30 seconds, talking stick passed around the table, each person may talk for 2 minutes. Follow-up comments for 30 seconds. Amended – Time for introduction of topic will be jointly pre-decided by person presenting agenda item and the chairperson either prior to or at the meeting. 5 in favor, 1 abstention.** Desired agenda items can be added to the proposed agenda by contacting John Root.
3. **EPS Ban update.** Start date January 1st. The Director of the Health Department (Julie Federman) has suggested that a letter come from the RRM Committee explaining the revised start date and the requirements. **MOTION (Sue M.)- Susan Waite will draft the letter, it will be reviewed by members of the (now disbanded) Foam Sub-committee (Sue M., Cristina, and Brenda), and then signed by John. Motion retracted. MOTION (Sue M.) - Susan W. will write a letter, will send to individual members for comment, Susan will revise, John will approve final letter as Committee Chair. Passed unanimously.**
4. **Discuss/determine zero waste priorities.** John spoke with Guilford Mooring about a recent meeting with local residential haulers. They are overly enthusiastic about curbside organics pick up, or in a zoned trash pickup plan for the town. Susan Waite said their curbside organics pickup sentiment was based on their perception that there is not a level playing field between local haulers and national hauling companies. They would be more

enthusiastic if major haulers were in compliance with recycling regulations as (in their opinion) small haulers incur the additional costs of recycling where the national haulers evade them. They felt that if zero waste is the goal, there is a lot of work to be done in the recycling area before we ask them to invest in curbside composting programs. Guilford Mooring said another curbside compost option is to put organics in a different colored, biodegradable garbage bags which would be picked up by haulers (with trash) and sorted out later as is done in a Minnesotan community.

Guilford said that Town Meeting could be asked to fund a full time recycling coordinator instead of the current part-time position. Craig shared that the DEP will be hiring more staff who will work on statewide waste ban enforcement. Curbside composting is not the only answer in moving towards Zero Waste: more backyard composting and participation in transfer station program with Amend Organics could be encouraged. Local haulers now take refuse to the landfill in South Hadley and to Valley Recycling (which hauls it to a large landfill in Seneca Falls, NY). **MOTION (Laurel) – The committee requests that John go to Guilford in support of expanding the recycling coordinator position from part-time to full-time and to find out what process would need to be pursued in support of that. 5 in favor, 1 opposed.**

MOTION – (Brenda) The committee requests that Amend Organics be asked to start a pilot organics pick up at the Amherst Cinema building downtown. Susan Waite explained that the idea is being pursued via the Center for Eco-Technology's Recycling Works program. Sue M. suggests that this be done at the Carriage Shops/Loose Goose complex instead. John wonders if townspeople could bring compost to one of these locations. Susan Waite has spoken with the Dir. of Public Health about the possibility of collecting at places such as the Winter Farmers' Market. **This conversation will be continued next month.**

5. **Create plans for Nov. 2014 America Recycles Day.** Susan explained that in the past the committee had placed a display in the library or wrote a letter to the editor about recycling to raise awareness of this national day. Susan suggested that we put this on the agenda for September 2014 to start the planning process earlier next year.
6. **Topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior to meeting**
None.
7. **New business and news updates.**
Amherst Toy Library: Has found a sponsor with not-for-profit status, are assembling a board of directors. Housed at the Bang Community Center.
Single Stream and Dirty MRF: Susan Waite distributed an article describing the process and impact. Hearsay is that single stream contamination of paper has already led some manufacturers to return to using virgin pulp.
Valley Zero Waste Event: Inaugural event of Valley Zero Waste, will be held at the Glass Room of the Bangs Community Center on Friday 11/8/13 at 7 PM. There will be a showing of "The Story of Stuff" followed by a presentation by Lynne Pledger, chair, describing Zero Waste practices followed by a discussion of how to promote Zero Waste in the region.